GERM 326: The German Fairy Tale – Old and New (Spring 2021)

Prof. Klaus Weissenberger, e-mail: klausw@rice.edu

Introduction: Common understanding of the fairy tale as a genre. Discussion of "Kuttel Daddeldu…".Homework: Write a fairy tale.

Discussion:"Kuttel Daddeldu…"; Lecture/Discussion: Mircea Eliade, The Sacred and the Profane

Lecture: The German romantics; their concept of folk poetry, esp. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's concept of the fairy tale.

1st Test: Critical Essay on Your Fairy Tale (Take Home)

Discussion of the Brothers Grimm Folk Tales with a Male Hero:

The Golden Bird (57); Lucky Hans (83); The Three Feathers (63); The Brave Little Tailor (20)

Discussion of the Brothers Grimm Folk Tales with a Heroine:

Sleeping Beauty (50); Rapunzel (12); Cinderella (21); Snow White (53); Mother Holle (24); Little Red Riding Hood (26); The Goose Girl (89); All Fur (65); Rumpelstiltskin (55); King Thrushbeard (52)

Discussion of a Brothers Grimm Folk Tales based on two Protagonists: Hansel and Gretel (15)

Discussion of a Brothers Grimm Folk Tale with several Protagonists: The Bremen Town Musicians (27)

Mid-Term (Open-Book Take Home)

Literary Fairy Tales of the 19th century:

Ludwig Tieck, Fair Eckbert; E.T.A, Hoffmann, The Golden Pot; Gottfried Keller, Mirror, the Cat

Open-Book Take-Home Final: Analysis of a modern fairy tale

Grading: The grading is based on participation (5%), the critical essay on your fairy tale (5%), a mid-term (40%) and a final (50%). The mid-term is a take-home test which covers the texts discussed up to then in class.

The Rice Honor Code applies to all written work.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disabilities Support Services in the Ley Student Center.

Electronic Reserve

Fair Eckbert, The Golden Pot, and Mirror, the Cat are available on electronic reserve via "Canvas".